

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Vincent E. Bryan et al.
Filed : July 9, 2003
For : SPINAL NEEDLE SYSTEM

Docket No. : 170134.401C1
Date : July 9, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

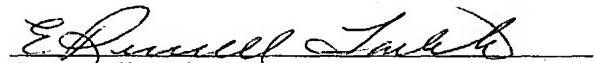
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicants wish to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references, as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, are enclosed). As to any reference supplied, applicants do not admit that it is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, and specifically reserve the right to traverse or antedate any such reference, as by a showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or other method. Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicants' duty to disclose all information they are aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, applicants believe that their invention is patentable.

We hereby certify that each of the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Applicants believe this Information Disclosure Statement has been timely filed, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due by way of this Information Disclosure Statement to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
Vincent E. Bryan et al.
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ERT:aep

Enclosures:

- Postcard
- Form PTO-1449
- Cited References (5)

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FORM PTO-1449 (REV.7-80)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 170143.401C1	APPLICATION NO.
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANTS Vincent E. Bryan et al.			
		FILING DATE July 9, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA	5,129,906	07/14/92	Ross et al.	606	77	
AB	5,398,861	03/21/95	Green	227	175	
AC	5,662,673	09/02/97	Kieturakis	606	185	
AD	5,674,237	10/07/97	Ott	606	185	
AE	5,730,756	03/24/98	Kieturakis et al.	606	190	
AF						
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
				YES	NO
AK					
AL					
AM					
AN					
AO					

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AP		
AQ		
AR		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s).